

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9745

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E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: BEXP, BU

SUBJECT: SLAUGHTER AND MEAT PROCESSING PLANT AT BURGAS

USDOC FOR BEWT/TDAD

SECSTATE ALSO FOR EUR/EE

1. DURING HIS CALL JUNE 14 ON DEPMIN FOREIGN TRADE KHRISTO KHRISTOV WHO IS CHAIRMAN BULGARIAN SIDE OF U.S.- BULGARIAN JOINT ECONOMIC COUNCIL, THE AMBASSADOR RAISED SUBJECT OF EPSTEIN COMPANY AS DESCRIBED REFTEL. KHRISTOV, WHO WAS FAMILIAR WITH SUBJECT, STATED THAT EPSTEIN WAS NOT TO BE DISCOURAGED, THAT BURGAS PROJECT (WHICH WILL BE ALMOST AS LARGE AS SILISTRA PROJECT) WILL BE IN NEXT FIVE-YEAR PLAN, AND THAT EPSTEIN PROPOSAL REMAINS OF GREAT INTEREST TO GOV. THERE WILL BE DELAY IN TIME FACTOR HOWEVER, AS SILISTRA PROJECT IS TO BE DECIDED FIRST, AND KHRISTOV INDICATED THAT GOV DECISIONS ON AWARDING CONTRACTS FOR BURGAS PROJECT WOULD NOT BE MADE BEFORE LAST HALF OF 1976 OR, MORE LIKELY, FIRST HALF OF 1977.

2. DCM WILL BE CALLING ON RODOPA GENERAL DIRECTOR NENKO LECHEV SHORTLY TO DISCUSS BOTH SILISTRA AND BURGAS PROJECTS AND WILL RAISE EPSTEIN QUESTION AGAIN AT THAT TIME.

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